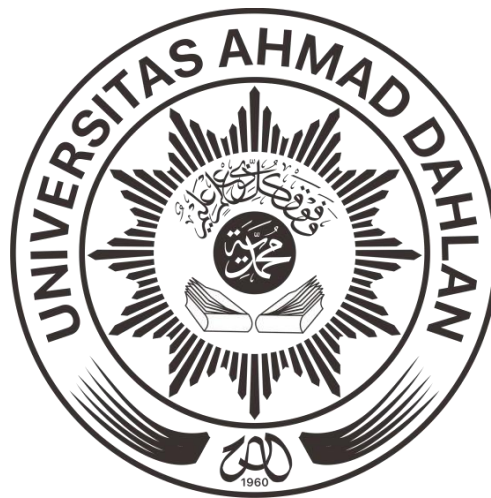


# **LYNDON B JOHNSON’S AMERICAN DREAM OF THE “GREAT SOCIETY” AS SEEN IN JOHNSON’S SPEECHES**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This undergraduate thesis describes an American Dream along with liberalism theory. This statement proposes to analyze the concept of American Dream outlined by Lyndon B. Johnson on transforming the face of the United States from a place with full of social problems to a perfect society. This undergraduate thesis has two main objectives to outline American Dream and the great society effect during the Sixties.

This undergraduate thesis utilizes a descriptive qualitative method. There are two types of data that concluded in this undergraduate thesis, they are primary and secondary data. The primary data are from printed transcript of Lyndon B. Johnson speech, printed document of the United States law under Lyndon B. Johnson. The secondary data are from books, academic journals, articles, and data from online sources. In this undergraduate thesis, the researcher uses an interdisciplinary approach that examining culture and social approach. The researcher completes this undergraduate thesis uses the theory of American Dream and Modern Liberalism. On analyzing the main issue, the researcher uses American Dream theory by Jackson Frederick Turner to construct an outline of American Dream related The Great Society and Modern Liberalism by Shalwyn J. Schapiro to strengthen the first theory.

The results of this undergraduate thesis show that The Great Society successfully change the face of the United States from a complex society to a “perfect” society. The Great Society successfully applied “War on Poverty” and “Civil Rights” to American society and changed the face injustice and deceasing poverty in the United States. Besides these acts, The Great Society also construct a number of facilities that could make American’s life be easy. Further, in this undergraduate thesis, the researcher summarizes that value of equality, hard work, learn a new thing could upwards American society condition a head.

Keywords: The Great Society, The Sixties, Social Condition.

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Skripsi ini menggambarkan tentang teori *American Dream* and teori liberalism. Hal ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis konsep dari *American Dream* yang diuraikan oleh Lyndon B. Johnson dalam mengubah tampilan dari Amerika Serikat dari sebuah tempat yang penuh dengan masalah sosial menjadi tempat yang sempurna. Skripsi ini terdiri dari dua tujuan utama yaitu menguraikan *The Great Society* dan Menjelaskan bagaimana efek dari *The Great Society*.

Skripsi ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Ada 2 macam data yang terkandung dalam skripsi ini yaitu data primer dan data sekunder. Data primer diambil dari transkrip cetak dari pidato Lyndon B. Johnson, Dokumen cetak dari undang-undang dasar Amerika Serikat. Data sekunder diambil dari buku, jurnal akademik, artikel, dan data yang diambil dari sumber *online*. Dalam skripsi ini, peneliti menggunakan *interdisciplinary approach* yang terdiri dari pendekatan budaya dan sosial. Peneliti menyusun skripsi ini menggunakan teori *American Dream* dan Liberalisme modern. Dalam menganalisis ide pokok ini, peneliti menggunakan teori *American Dream* dari Jackson Frederick Turner untuk membangun sebuah uraian yang terkait dengan *The Great Society* dan Liberalisme Modern dari Shalwyn J. Schapiro untuk menguatkan teori pertama.

Hasil dari Skripsi ini menunjukkan bahwa *The Great Society* telah mengubah tampilan dari Amerika Serikat dari sebuah masyarakat yang "kompleks" menjadi sebuah masyarakat yang "sempurna". *The Great Society* telah menerapkan *War on Poverty* dan *Civil Rights* ke masyarakat Amerika Serikat dan mengubah tampilan dari ketidakadilan dan mengurangi kemiskinan di Amerika Serikat. Selain dari yang disebutkan diatas, *The Great Society* juga membuat sejumlah kemudahan untuk hidup warga Amerika Serikat. Skripsi ini menyimpulkan bahwa nilai kesamarataan, Kerja keras, Mempelajari hal baru dapat memperbaiki kondisi sosial Amerika Serikat kedepannya.

Kata kunci : *The Great Society, The Sixties, Social Condition.*

## **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Background of choosing subject.**

The United States propagandizes itself as the land of dream and the greatest nation in the world, then it spreads it out over the world, it is known as the American Dream. In the beginning of 1960's era, America beliefs that they were on golden era, more than any other decade of the twentieth century, 1960's continues to be the subject of passionate debate and political controversy in the United States.

January 20 1961, John F Kennedy set as the president of the United States. Any He made a new history as the youngest person that elected to be a president of the United States. In 1963, President Kennedy was murdered in Texas. Kennedy's vice president Lyndon B Johnson upward to gain the presidential seat.

During his presidency, Johnson expels a program that change the entire history of the United States that is The Great Society. This program covers several aspects of society services such as the civil right movement, the war on poverty, health, education, and public service improvement. This program claims to be a solution to exceeding The United States to be "tremendous" nation in the world.

The researcher completes this undergraduate thesis with an interdisciplinary approach. Further, the researcher would downward the interdisciplinary approach with two different theories. First is an American Dream theory by James Truslow Adams and the researcher broader the discussion with liberalism theory. Both of those

theories are relevant to the researcher main issues the Great Society and Lyndon Johnson's ideology on composing a political policy.

### **B. Scope of the Study**

Based on the explanation above, the researcher focuses on Johnson Dream of The Great society reflected on Lyndon B Johnson's speeches.

### **C. Problem Formulation**

This undergraduate paper based on Lyndon B Johnson speeches manuscript during his presidency from 1963 until 1969 to takes some problem formulations as below.

1. What is the American Dream based on Lyndon Johnson speeches?
2. How was Lyndon Johnson's American Dream dealing with The Great Society in his speeches.

### **D. Objective of the studies**

The Researcher states mentions some objectives of the study are as below:

1. To determine American Dream based on Lyndon Johnson speeches
2. To analyze Johnson's Dream of the Great Society as reflected in his speeches

### **E. Review of related studies**

This study relates to Ursula Hackett's paper from University of Oxford which has a title *The Six Great Societies*. Second, the researcher works disclose to the publication journal from Dr. Kasiyarno.M.Hum from doctorate degree of American studies, Universitas Gajah Mada entitled *AMERICAN DREAM: THE AMERICAN HEGEMONIC CULTURE AND IT'S IMPLICATIONS TO THE WORLD*. Third, the researcher found that the researcher's paper related with an undergraduate thesis by

Anggara Galuh Asturias Kertanegara from Universitas Ahmad Dahlan entitled *THE STRUGGLE OF JB BERNSTEIN'S AMERICAN DREAM SUCCESS REFLECTED IN THE FILM MILLION DOLLAR ARM*. All of those undergraduate thesis above had different problem formulation on analysis. In this undergraduate thesis, the researcher tries to identify American Dream that reflected on Lyndon B. Johnson speeches.

## **F. Method of research**

Qualitative research begins with assumptions, a world view, the possible use of theoretical lens and the study of research problems inquiring into the meaning individual or group ascribe to social human problem. (Cresswell:36-37)

### **1. The sources data**

#### **a. Main Data**

In this studies the researcher uses several printed transcripts of President Lyndon Baines Johnson speeches as metadata of this studies. Then, printed documents of the United States “Great Society” law.

#### **b. The Supporting Data**

The supporting data taken from various sources such as journals, articles, and online sources that relates to the main issues.

### **2. Method of collecting**

The researcher worn collects data technique from Universitas Ahmad Dahlan library and gather data from some books and online sources that relate with the main issue.

### **3. Method of Analyzing data**

In analyzing this paper, the researcher did (1) Read documentary transcripts from Lyndon Johnson many times till get understanding in details about Johnson's speeches; (2). Write them down some statements dealt with the concept of American Dream along with the case of the Great Society; (3). Analyze those statements connected with some correlated theories, both American Dream theory and Modern Liberalism theory; (4). Make a conclusion toward the analysis above.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **A. American Dream**

In this paper, the researcher used American Dream concept from Jackson Frederick Turner that published on his journal entitled *The Frontier in American History*. Turner implies that "American Dream is a spirit of consistent to be different growth and independent in the united states and detached from the influence of European." (Turner 4)

Kristian Nielsen explain on *The American Dream* that American Dream concept consist of values that formed American norms of life. On his report, Nielsen stated that the values are Equal Opportunity, Moving up, Material gain, and Better world.

Equality on American Dream formed from the Pilgrims idea that "all men are created equal". In relation to this discussion about equality his remarks about improved life conditions for all classes is most striking.

In the United States hard-work spirit is a part of the Pilgrims spirituality of religion. Hard-work ethics also played a role as important factor to create the United States industries to be the frontier industries in the world.

The American Dream formed that an interest for the settlers to come to the United States to gain a material.

The dream of the better world formed from a desire for seeking a new place to pray without any intervention from the government. In this situation, many people in Europe sees that America is a new world where they could be free without any intervention from the authority.

In this paper the researcher examined that the dream of equality and better world reflected on Johnson's Civil rights act, the dream of moving up relate with Johnson's war on poverty and education aid policy, etc.

## **B. Modern liberalism**

Modern Liberalism formed by civic liberty and equality to support for social justice and a mixed economy. It is aimed to create a social safety net by alienate individuals from the fear of hunger and unemployment, support the role for government in reducing inequality, providing education, ensuring access to healthcare, creating an aid for old age, also operating economic activity through give a hand to members of modern industrial societies arise and protecting the natural environment.



In this paper, the researcher found that modern liberalism approach reflected on the main idea of the Great Society. The Great Society reflected on the desire of liberals to recognize and overcome barriers to equality of opportunity.

### **C. Lyndon B. Johnson Presidency**

During Johnson presidency, the researcher founded that Johnson released a lot of policy that impacted a lot in the United States society system and the world condition.

In this paper The researcher would set a limitation on the Great Society. This program main objectives are eliminated poverty and racial injustice in The united states.

War on poverty is “a program that concern on what the state should and could do to help ordinary Americans and equally significant, what he felt such citizens owed the country in return” (Mckee 8). Johnson also prepares VISTA or volunteers in services to America.

Civil Right Act derived from civil right value that consist of all-rights that aimed to protect individual freedom from government infringement, social organization and individuals.

On Medical and healthiness, President Johnson release the social security act amendments of 1965 that aimed to determining medical sectors for the people of The united states. This law consists of Medicare and Medicaid.

Transportation is influential to unifying the people of The united states. Since the first day of The united states, the government had an important role on developing

the nation together through road, canal, railroad, and airport construction. Meanwhile, in 1960's around thirty agencies, most of them under congressional control, regulated the nation's road, river, sea, and air transit.

The researcher founded that education act was influential factor to change The united states from low access on education to educated society. On his speech Johnson mentioned that The educated mind is the guarding genius of democracy. <<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/remarks-upon-signing-the-higher-education-facilities-act>>

Johnson signed a law on Housing and Urban Development. This law purposed on Assisting and providing low- moderate income families to improve their environment and providing a place to stay.

Job Corps is one of Johnson's program that create an aid to help disadvantages people to get a good working to start a new life. This program available for young people between 16 until 24 years old.

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **DISCOUSSION**

This chapter is a discussion of the researcher main idea "The Great Society". The researcher problem formulation consists of what is the outlined of American Dream as seen on The Great Society by Lyndon Baines Johnson speeches and the second is how is American Dream linked to The Great Society of Lyndon Johnson.

##### **1.1. Perfect land of hope (irreplaceable)**

“The Great Society is a place where every child can find a knowledge his mind and to enlarge his talent.”(line 1-2) This line portrays Johnson’s efforts on the Great Society related with American Dream value to made a freedom land that steady move away from the authority.

Economic Opportunity Act 1964 ensure his people prosperity of life. This statement proofed on the word “not a feared cause of boredom and restlessness” (line 3)

War on poverty often linked to modern liberalism purpose to equipping individuals to step on opportunity on challenging themselves upward their social life. Those words means that Johnson ask his people to build American society together.

This statement represents American Dream values that American people can reach their dream if they work hard.

### **New World (New hope)**

The Great Society aims to create a new world that different than others society. New world that constructed from individual freedom. So, everyone can pursue themselves.

“In the remainder of this century urban population will double, city land will double, and we will have to build homes, highways, and facilities equal to all those built since this country was first settled. So in the next 40 years we must re-build the entire urban United States.” (line 2-4) Thus as a president, he needs to prepare anything that linked to society such as infrastructures. The word “we will have to build homes, highways, and facilities equal... (line 4)” This line represents how

serious Johnsons about change American cities look to be better place to spent life than before.

In addresses with this, Johnsons created The Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964 to regulate highway, railway, and other mass transportation planning and development programs in urban areas. Further, cheap transportation also linked with Johnson's effort to push the American economics sector to support mixed economic activities.

## **1.2. New Vision (Better life)**

Civil Rights included on this program. This program aimed to improve the qualification of American life standards and create an equal opportunity for all Americans. In addition, equal opportunity also guaranteed under Civil Rights Act of 1964. (Pub.L.88-352,78 stat.241, July 2 1964) in other words it's a law to deceased a discrimination of race, gender, color, religion, sex, or nationality background.

"It is a place where leisure is a welcome chance to build and reflect, not a feared cause of boredom and restlessness."(line 2-3) It is mean that Johnson wants create something that could provide any activities for all of American leisure.

"It is a place where the city of man serves not only the needs of the body and the demands of commerce but the desire for beauty and the hunger for community."(line 3-5) This line explain that Johnson still maintains the role of government on the core of the great society.

Johnson compose Civil Rights Act contains equal opportunity for every people. Under civil rights there is a number of sections that ensure decreasing racial regression and discrimination in public places. (Civil Rights Act, Par.1)

Civil Rights linked to the core of the great society that ensure individual freedom and ensuring an equal opportunity for all Americans. Civil Rights Act also prevent discrimination in American society.

## **2 Lyndon Johnsons American Dream in relation to The Great Society in his speeches**

### **2.1. Certainty**

In the Great Society cope almost every aspects of life and intended to American to build a glory and follow their desires.

#### **2.1.A. Equality**

Equality implementation on American Dream that carried of the Great Society. It's reflected on the words "The Great Society rests on abundance and liberty for all" (Line 1) In the Great Society, freedom of individual played a role as emancipation of human rights. This statement portray that Johnson want strengthen that liberty is a human rights.

Further, Johnson states on his other speech that "Until justice is blind to color, until education is unaware of race, until opportunity is unconcerned with the color of men's skins, emancipation will be a proclamation but not a fact. To the extent that the proclamation of emancipation is not fulfilled in fact, to that extent we shall have fallen short of assuring freedom to the free." (Johnson, Par.19)

### **2.1.B. Facilities**

The Great Society also offers a number of facilities that could ease by the citizen of the United States from all background to make the American life easy in the future.

#### **1. Education**

Education included on Education Act of 1964. Education act is a policy that composed by Lyndon Baines Johnsons to prepare an accessible education for American. Johnson wants push American to enroll their higher education, if Johnson fail to push.

#### **2. Job opportunity**

Job co-operation training or officially called neighborhood youth corps. It is a program that prepare American youth generation some useful skills for work and enroll the United States economy in the future. Both of those programs proposed to train any useful soft-skills to American youth people. (Johnson, par.13) This statement linked to Johnson speech that “Under this program they will, in a great American tradition, be able to work their way through school. They and the country will be richer for it.” (Johnson, par.15)

#### **3. Medic**

Medical insurance also offered on Johnson's Great Society. Johnson inspired by the throw up of medical costs in the sixties. Medical insurances offer in two kinds of types that are Medicare and Medicaid

Medicare is an insurance that prepare to covers all of medical activities for those who are above than 65 years old. Medicare prepared to be a medical insurance that eligible to covers physician services and some health, preventive services and training.

Medicaid is a joint federal and state program that, together with the children's health insurance program, provide health coverage to over 72.5 million Americans, including children, pregnant women, parents, individuals with disabilities.

## **2.2. Spirit of Success**

The American Dream set any ideals (democracy, rights, prosperity, success, and equality) The Great Society portrayed success is on an effort by American to take and advantage every opportunity to upward themselves to upward their prosperity.

Further, Economic opportunity act 1964, Johnson putted his hope that he could realize his dream to strengthen, supplement, and coordinate efforts on eliminate poverty.

In addition, the spirit of success also shaped on under education act. Education act aimed to prepare a scholarship for American to pursue higher education level to shaping their mind.

#### **CHAPTER IV**

The Great Society is a set of domestic program that released by President Lyndon Baines Johnson in 1963. This program claimed as a problem solver of the societal condition in the sixties that full of racial injustice and many people lived under the poverty line still exist.

In this undergraduate thesis. American Dream found on Johnson's the great society on some points, War on poverty represents Johnsons efforts on liberating Americans from the difficult time of lives. Civil Rights portrayed Johnsons efforts on giving equality in every social aspect among Americans. Based on a reason, during that time the United States were dominated by inequalities and injustice for colored people. Education and Job Training were Johnsons efforts in a short period on realizing his program. Education would open Americans minds to observes themselves and Job Training would offer an opportunity for all American to improve their useable skills to face their future. This statement relates with upward spirit of the American Dream. Medical insurances would create health safety for Americans through covers some medical fee. This statement proofs that the great society also provide certainty for their people. Then, public services would create ease for Americans decreasing social problems. It means that Johnson want to set America as better place for living. It addition, all programs also proof that Johnson's great society relate to American Dream. Both of these programs aims to create perfect living for people in the United States through improve all society aspects that useful for Americans.



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